



GP/2832

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

iner: 
H. J. Stiles
Officer
7/11/02

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §§ 1.56, 1.97 AND 1.98**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

I certify that this correspondence is being deposited on February 1, 2002 with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail under 37 C.F.R. 1.8 and is addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

Agatha Skierkowski

(Name of Person Mailing Paper)

Signature

Date _____

In compliance with the duty to disclose, applicants submit herewith a copy of the European Search Report and the Australian Search Report issued in counterpart foreign applications, an English-language version of the Search Report and a copy of each of the Foreign publications cited therein; the publications are listed on attached form PTO-1449 as reference numbers 171 through 233. Copies of the publications listed on pages 1-9 as reference numbers 1-170 on the attached PTO-1449 form have not been provided as they are found in a compendium on deposit (filed) in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/275,066. Such is in accordance with the Decision On Petition Under 37 CFR 1.183 Seeking Waiver of Requirements Under 37 CFR 1.98 in Application No. 09/275,066. A copy of this decision is attached hereto.

Since the European Search Report and the Australian Search Report were issued in connection with counterpart applications and indicate the degree of relevance of each of the publications as assessed by the foreign patent offices, the English-language version of the European and Australian Search Reports meet the concise explanation requirements of 37 CFR § 1.98 (a) (3), see 57 Fed. Reg. 2031, comment 68 (1992).

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Consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement is respectfully requested, since the Examiner may consider the information provided herein material to the patentability of the subject application as defined in 37 CFR § 1.56.

Since this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of the subject application, no fee or certification under 37 CFR § 1.97 (e) is required.

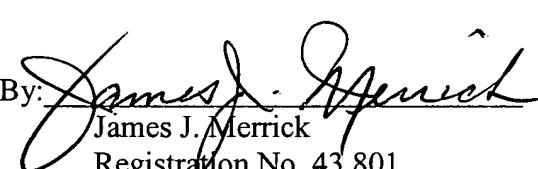
However, in the event the Commissioner of Patents deems that any fee is required under 37 CFR § 1.16 and 1.17 in connection with this application, applicants' attorneys authorize that such fee be charged to Deposit Account No. 06-1130.

Respectfully submitted,

MICHAEL S. TIGNOR

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By:


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